

Resolution Regarding Smoking Policy

1-22-10

WHEREAS Texas Woman's University is known for providing supportive and challenging educational experiences for students in a healthy, safe, and nurturing environment while completing programs of study designed to fill important occupational needs for the state of Texas;

And WHEREAS the health and wellness of the students, faculty, and staff of Texas Woman's University should be a major consideration in the development of safe and healthy learning environments for the University and its operations;

And WHEREAS the damaging effects of second-hand smoke, also known as '*environmental tobacco smoke*', is classified universally by agencies of the U.S. government including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as a "known human carcinogen," or cancer-causing agent;

And WHEREAS according to the American Cancer Society, second-hand smoke is responsible for 3,400 deaths annually from lung cancer in non-smoking adults; and according to the American Heart Association environmental second-hand smoke is a major preventable cause of cardiovascular disease;

And WHEREAS according to the American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation, at least 381 campuses of institutions of higher education in the U.S. have 100% smoke-free campuses. Eight of which are within the state of Texas;

And WHEREAS there are no safe levels of second-hand smoke exposure, and the Surgeon General of the United States has indicated that the only way to remove exposure to second-hand smoke is through the creation of smoke-free workplaces;

And WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has developed a comprehensive plan for institutions planning and implementing tobacco-free campus initiatives;

And WHEREAS TWU faculty, staff, and students are consistently exposed to repeated occurrences of second-hand smoke as they leave and enter university classroom buildings;

And WHEREAS the current TWU Board of Regents' policy (see below) regarding smoking on campus only prohibits smoking inside buildings and parking areas, and by omission permits smoking and tobacco use by individuals in all other areas on campus;

Therefore be it RESOLVED that the TWU Faculty Senate urges that the TWU Board of Regents amend its smoking policy in order for Texas Woman's University to become a tobacco-free campus. The Senate further resolves that such a policy's provision address all of the issues attended to within the planning and implementation documents created by the Center for Disease Control.

Current Regents Policy:

"Effective January 1, 1993, the buildings and parking facilities located at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Dallas, and Houston shall be designated "smoke-free." Private residence hall rooms and designated outdoor smoking areas are exempt from this policy.

<https://www.twu.edu/regents/e.html>"

References:

American Cancer Society

http://www.cancer.org/docroot/PED/content/PED_10_2X_Secondhand_Smoke-Clean_Indoor_Air.asp?sitearea=PED&viewmode=print&

American Heart Association

<http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=4521>

Centers for Disease Control

<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/hwi/toolkits/tobacco/planning.htm>

American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation

<http://www.no-smoke.org/pdf/smokefreecollegesuniversities.pdf>

Faculty Senate

January 22, 2010